Government has been suggesting to the States/Union Territories, from time to .time, measures to improve the working of Public Distribution System by proper control, sustained supervision, efficient management and development of a proper monitoring system at the State, district and block/ taluka levels to ensure up-to-date information in respect °f availability or otherwise of essential commodities through fair price shops. They have also been advised to develop a suitable district plan in respect of essential commodities in various areas within the jurisdiction of a particular district. Having regard to the consumer oriented nature of the Public Distribution System, the need for active and popular participation of the representatives of consumers in the Consumer Advisory Committees at. various levels has also been impressed upon them. A periodical review of the working of Public Distribution System is also made in the meetings of the Advisory Council on Public Distribution System which are held under the Chairmanship of Union Ministers of Food and Civil Supplies «f all the States/Union Territories are ex-officio members of this council. In the last meeting of ihe Advisory Council on Public Distribution System held under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister for Food and Civil Supplies on 29th October, 1985, the representatives of the States /Union Territories were requested to initiate effective steps for covering rural, backward and far-flung areas through a network of fair price shops and also to ensure timely supply of essential commodities to fair price shops through a system of surprise checks and continuous monitoring.

Implementation of Palekar Award

988. SHRI S. W. DHABE: Will the Ministe* of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of newspaper establishments in the country which have implemented the recommendations of the Palekar Award;

(b) what was the position as on lst January, 1986 in this regard;

(c) what are the names of the newspapers which have partially implemented or which have not at all implemented the recommendations of the Palekar Award; and

(d) what action Government have taken against the management of such newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, which are the appropriate authorities in the matter and the same would be laid on the Table of the House, when received.

Decline in export of cotton textiles

989. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that export of cotton textiles has of late gone down appreciably;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the declining trend in its export; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to improve the cotton textile export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) There has been no decline in export of cotton textiles during the flrst 9 months of 1935-86 as compared to the exports during the corresponding period last year.

(c) steps for improving export of cotton textiles:

(1) Soft loan scheme is available for modernisation of the textile industry.

(2) Sophisticated textile machines not manufactured indigenously are allowed *to* be imported on OGL,

(3) Wide with' shuttteless looms and cotton spinning machines are allowed to be imported at concessional import duty linked with export obligation.

(4) With effect from lst January. 84 rates of Cash Compensatory Support (CCS) have been revised puwards for many categories of textile items. Sewing/embroidery threads were also made eligible for CCS w.e.f. 4th July, 1984. This policy was continued during 1985. The CCS rates have bees extended -upto 31st December, 1986 subject to review to be completed by 31st March, 1986.

(5) A scheme of 100 per cent Export Oriented Unit$_s$ is in operation which includes several textile items. 100 per cent Export Oriented Units and units in Free Trade Zones are eligible for several facilities such as duty free import $_0$f capita! goods, raw materials, components etc.

(6) .Government has been sponsoring and funding promotional activities such as market studies, buyer-seller meets, participation in international fairs/exhibitions in order to increase and diversify our exports in terms of products' and areas.

(7) The import-export policy has been further liberalised with a view to promote export of textiles from India.

राजस्थान में मरुभूमि-काम्पलैक्स

990. श्री भंवर लाल पंवार : क्या संसदीय कार्य और पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या राजस्थान में पर्यटन विभाग के लिये मरुभूमि-काम्पलैक्स बनाने की कोई योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) क्या सरकार मरुभूमि-काम्पलैक्स योजना के अन्तर्गत विमान और रेल सेवा सुविधाएं बढ़ाने का भी विचार रखती है ; यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

संसदीय कार्य और पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री एच० के० एल० भगत : (क) और (ख) राजस्थान में मरुभूमि-काम्पलैक्स बनाने के लिए पर्यटन विभाग ने सिद्धान्त रूप में मास्टर प्लान बनाना स्वीकार कर लिया है । राज्य सरकार और पर्यटन विभाग से परामर्श करके नगर और ग्राम आयोजन संगठन मास्टर प्लान बनाने का कार्य सौंप दिया जाएगा ;

(ग) क्षेत्र में प्रमुख पर्यटन स्थल, यथा बीकानेर, जैसलमेर और जोधपुर पहले ही रेल द्वारा जुड़े हुए हैं । इंडियन एअरलाइन्स द्वारा जोधपुर के लिए हवाई सेवा-संपर्क मौजूद है । बीकानेर और जैसलमेर के लिए वायुदूत लिंक भी सुलभ है ।

Increase in pr^c$_e$ of indices

991. SHRI KAPIL VERMA; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the increase in wholesale price index and consumer price index from April, 1985 to February, 1986; and

(b) what i$_s$ the anticipated rate of inflation by the end of the current financial year as compared to the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) According to the available information Wholesale Price Index (1970-71—100) increase by 1.7 per cent from April, 1985 to January, 1986, and Consumer Price Index (1960—100) by 6.l per cent from April, 1985 to December, 1985. A number of factors affect the inflation rate during the year; on the basis of current trend, it is expected that inflation rate *on* the basis